



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application of: Pittenger, et al.  
Serial No.: 09/319,521  
Filed: June 4, 1999  
For: Improved Chondrogenic Differentiation of Human Mesenchymal Stem  
Cells  
Group: 1644  
Examiner: Belyavskyi

Commissioner for Patents  
Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

**A. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

In response to the Office Action dated November 30, 2004, reconsideration of the above-identified application is hereby respectfully requested.